

an oscillator for generating a signal having a frequency, the oscillator having a control input for varying the frequency of the signal, the oscillator including:

a primary current source coupled to the control input;

a differential switch coupled to the primary current source;

a capacitor coupled to the differential switch; and

a comparator coupled to the differential switch

a circuit for varying the frequency, the circuit coupled to the control input, including:

a capacitor;

a current source adapted to charge and discharge the capacitor;

one or more comparators coupled to the capacitor and coupled to the current source for alternately charging and discharging the capacitor; and

a power transistor coupled to the oscillator and to one terminal of the primary winding, the power transistor modulating its output in providing a regulated power supply output.

REMARKS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 1-34. Claims 11-34 presently stand rejected. The Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-10 presently stand allowed. The title and claims 11, 17, 21, 23, 26-28, 30, 32, 33 and 34 have been amended. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application as amended.

Title Objection

In the October 16, 2000 Office Action, the title of the invention is objected to as being imprecise. The Applicants have amended the title as suggested by the Examiner.

35 USC § 112 Rejections of Claims

In the October 16, 2000 Office Action, claims 27-28 and 32-34 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. The Applicants have amended claims 27, 28, 32, 33 and 34 and the instant section 112 rejections have been overcome. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the instant section 112 rejections.

35 USC § 102 Rejections of Claims

In the October 16, 2000 Office Action, claims 11, 13, 17, 21 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Albach, US Patent No. 4,712, 169.

Claim 11 as presently amended presently recites “*combining* the secondary current with the primary current *to be received at* a control input of an oscillator . . .” To illustrate, attention is respectfully directed to the example embodiment illustrated in Figure 1. The secondary current from current sources 152, 156, 160 and 164 are *combined* with the primary current 125 to be received at the control input node 123 of the oscillator. (See, e.g., page 14, lines 14-20 of the Applicants’ specification).

In contrast, Albach fails to disclose teach or suggest *combining* a secondary current with a primary current *to be received at* a control input of an oscillator. Instead, Albach suggests a reference voltage Uref that is received at a positive input of a comparator 31 and a voltage U1 that varies over time that is received at a negative input of comparator 31. Albach fails to disclose teach or suggest that U1 is combined with Uref and is received at a control input U2 of VCO 34. Indeed, Albach fails to disclose teach or suggest that Uref and U1 are added together to form U2. Accordingly, Albach

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fails to disclose, teach or suggest expressly recited elements of claim 11 as presently amended.

Claim 17 distinguishes for the same reasons described above in connection with claim 11.

Claim 21 has been amended to embody limitations included in conditionally allowed claim 22. The Applicants understand claim 21 should be allowable as amended in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in paragraph 10 of the October 16, 2000 Office Action.

Claims 13, 31 and 32 are dependent claims and therefore distinguish for at least the same reasons as their respective independent base claims in addition to adding further limitations of their own.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that instant section 102 rejections have been overcome and request withdrawal of the instant section 102 rejections.

35 USC § 103 Rejections of Claims

In the October 16, 2000 Office Action, claims 12 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious in view of Albach. Claims 12 and 18 are dependent claims and therefore distinguish for at least the same reasons as their respective independent base claims in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the instant section 103 rejections

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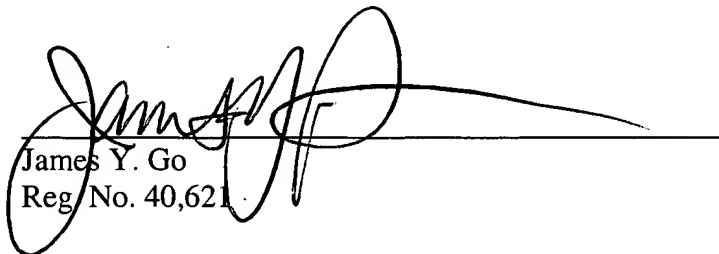
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Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 1/8/01


James Y. Go
Reg. No. 40,621

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